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A Turk in Papal Trial Is Dead

FILE ONLY

ANKARA, Turkey, Oct. 14 (AP) — A Turk who was being tried in absentia in the Rome trial of eight men accused of conspiring to kill Pope John Paul II died here today of a heart attack, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The dispatch said that the man, Bekir Celenk, had suffered a heart attack at the Mamak military prison and died on the way to the Gulhane hospital. The agency said his body was in the hospital morgue.

Mr. Celenk, 51 years old, was standing trial here on charges of arms and

drugs smuggling. He faced the death penalty if convicted.

The court in the papal case in Rome was planning to move here this month to question Mr. Celenk and other witnesses in connection with the purported plot against the Pope.

Mr. Celenk was being tried in absentia in Rome as an accomplice in the 1981 shooting of the Pope. He was charged with conspiracy after Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk convicted of trying to assassinate the Pope, turned state's evidence and implicated others.